

## **S.F. No. 3457 – Modifying and updating provisions related to newspapers (as proposed to be amended by the A-1 technical amendment)**

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**SF 3457** amends provisions in chapter 331A, which governs qualified newspapers, by updating the chapter to include e-editions and making other changes to modernize the provisions in the chapter.

**Section 1** modifies the definition of political subdivision by adding home rule charter, statutory city or town, and strikes “municipality” because it is redundant.

**Section 2** defines the term publish, which means dissemination in print and e-edition.

**Section 3** defines the term general circulation, which means a newspaper that distributes more than a nominal percentage of its total print circulation in a particular geographic area.

**Section 4** defines the term e-edition, which means a digital facsimile of a newspaper’s print edition.

**Section 5** modifies the conditions that must be met in order to be a qualified newspaper, which include: requiring that the newspaper be published, as well as distributed; striking language specifying the number of copies that must be circulated and adding language allowing a local unit of government the flexibility to choose a qualified newspaper outside of the political subdivision; requiring the newspaper office of issue be located, instead of established, in the county or an adjoining county that is publishing the public notice, and makes other clarifying changes.

**Section 6** allows a newspaper to be consolidated with an adjoining county or change the office of issue within the county or adjoining county without affecting the qualified newspaper status. Failing to maintain the office of issue in the county or adjoining county of the office of issue results in the newspaper losing its standing as a qualified newspaper.

**Section 7** requires newspapers to post all notices on the Minnesota Newspaper Association's statewide public notice website and requires the newspaper to provide a link to the online public notices section of the paper at no cost to the public.

**Section 8** modifies the conditions that must be met for joint bidding when two or more newspapers submit a bid for the publication of public notices.

**Section 9** prohibits a political subdivision from being charged for a publication if an error occurs that was the fault of the newspaper.

**Section 10** provides that it is not necessary to publish individual disbursements of less than \$500, instead of \$300, under certain circumstances.

**Section 11** repeals the definition of the term municipality.